

Message Text

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ACTION EA-13

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ADP-00 NSC-10 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10

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FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6015

INFO USDEL JEC PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 14797

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: MOPS, VS

SUBJECT: MR IV SITREP FOR AUGUST 15, 1973

FOLLOWING MSG REC FROM AMCONSUL CAN THO ON AUG 15 ACTION
EMBASSY SAIGON INFO USDAO SAIGON USSAG NKP THAILAND REPEATED
FOR YOUR INFO:

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAN THO 0655

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: MOPS

SUBJECT: MR IV SITREP FOR AUGUST 15, 1973

1. SUMMARY: THE FOCUS OF VC ACTIVITY OVER THE LAST 24 HOURS
IN THE DELTA HAS SHIFTED TO DINH TUONG AND CHAU DOC. ARVN HAS
SHIFTED TWO BATTALIONS FROM DINH TUONG TO KIEN HOA. PRE-ELECTORAL
ACTIVITY CONTINUES AT A LOW LEVEL. SOUTHEASTERN
PHONG DINH PROVINCE IS THE APPARENT OBJECT OF A PROLONGED
VC TERRORIST CAMPAIGN.

2. SECURITY SITUATION: (A) FOR THE WEEK OF AUGUST 6-14,
MR IV REPORTS 258 VC-INITIATED INCIDENTS (UP SLIGHTLY FROM "89
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THE PREVIOUS WEEK), INCLUDING 23 GROUND ATTACKS, 185 ATTACKS

BY FIRE, 32 HARRASSMENTS, 13 INCIDENTS OF SABOTAGE AND 5 INCIDENTS OF INFILTRATION. CORPS REPORTS 203 SECURITY OPERATIONS, OF WHICH 84 WERE CONDUCTED BY ARVN. CORPS LOST 166 KILLED, 598 WOUNDED, 33 MISSING, ONE CREW-SERVED WEAPON LOST AND 131 INDIVIDUAL WEAPONS LOST. CORPS CLAIMS 392 VC KILLED, 7 CAPTURED, 29 CREW-SERVED WEAPONS SEIZED AND 157 INDIVIDUAL WEAPONS SEIZED.

(B) FOR THE 48-HOUR PERIOD ENDING 0600 15 AUGUST, MR IV REPORTS 44 VC-INITIATED INCIDENTS, INCLUDING ONE GROUND ATTACK, 33 ATTACKS BY FIRE, 9 HARRASSMENTS, AND ONE TERRORIST ATTACK. VC ACTIVITY WAS CONCENTRATED IN DINH TUONG (WITH 10 REPORTED INCIDENTS ON AUGUST 14), CHAU DOC, AND CHUONG THIEN, ALTHOUGH CHUONG THIEN ACTIVITY WAS LOWER THAN NORMAL. CORPS REPORTS 30 GVN TROOPS KILLED, AND 178 WOUNDED. CORPS CLAIMS 147 VC KIALED, AND 2 CAPTURED.

3. GVN ACTIVITIES PD/(A) TWO BATTALIONS OF THE 10 REGIMENT OF THE ARVN 7TH DIVISION HAVE MOVED FROM DINH TUONG TO KIEN HOA, REPLACING THREE GO CONG RF BATTALIONS WHICH HAVE BEEN RETURNED TO THEIR NORMAL AREA OF OPERATIONS IN DINH TUONG.

(B) THE VICE CONSUL IN VINH LONG REPORTS LITTLE ELECTORAL ACTIVITY OTHER THAN POSTERS IN VINH LONG, VINH BINH AND SA DEC. STATE 3 POSTERS ARE MORE NUMEROUS THAN STATE 4 IN THE CITIES. POSTERS FOR BOTH STATES 3 AND 4 ARE RARE OUTSIDE OF PROVINCE CAPITALS. THE RD CADRE AND CIVILIAN PROSYLITING SERVICES ACTIVELY FAVOR STATES 1 AND 2. THE DAN CHU PARTY CADRE ARE SUPPORTING SLATE 2 AS WELL AS THEIR OWN CANDIDATES. VINH BINH IS AN EXCEPTION TO THE GENERAL PATTERN, WITH APPARENTLY SOME REAL POPULAR SUPPORT FOR SLATE 4 AMONG ETHNIC CAMBODIANS.

4. SELECTED PROVINCE COMMENT: (A) THE PHONG DINH PROVINCE REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS CONTINUING VC ASSASSINATIONS AND KIDNAPPINGS IN THE PROVINCE. ON JUNE 25, THE DEPUTY CHIEF OF TAN HIEP HAMLET, THANH HOA VILLAGE, THUAN NHON DISTRICT, AND SEVEN MEMBERS OF HIS FAMILY WERE ASSASSINATED. A PSDF WAS KIDNAPPED IN THE SAME HAMLET ON JUNE 25. ON JUNE 30, IN THE SAME AREA, A VC SQUAD FIRED INTO THE HOUSE OF TH THANH TRUNG

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HAMLET CHIEF, KILLING HIS WIFE AND 2 PSDF AND WOUNDING 3 CHILDREN. ON JULY 22, A PLASTIC CHARGE WOUNDED 7 PERSONS, AGAIN IN TAN HIEP HAMLET, INCLUDING THE HAMLET CHIEF AND 2 DISTRICT DEMOCRACY PARTY OFFICIALS. IN PHONG THUAN DISTRICT, ALSO IN JULY, A HAMLET CHIEF, A POLICEMAN AND AN ARVN SERGEANT WERE KILLED AND 2 CIVILIANS WOUNDED. THE PROVINCE REPRESENTATIVE COUNTS SEVEN ASSASSINATIONS INCIDENTS IN PHONG DINH IN JULY, ALTHOUGH THE GVN REPORTED ONLY TWO.

(B) THE DINH TUONG PROVINCE REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS INCREASED VC ACTIVITY INCLUDING 28 VC-INITIATED INCIDENTS IN THE 48-HOUR PERIOD ENDING 0630 AUGUST 15. (COMMENT: THIS SECTOR NUMBER IS ROUTINELY HIGHER THAN THAT REPORTED AT CORPEV IGURES IN SECTION 1 ARE CORPS FIGURES. END COMMENT). THERE WERE REPORTEDLY 14 ATTACKS BY FIRE, 4 BOOBY TRAP INCIDENTS, AND 7 CONTACTS DURING RF AND POLICE OPERATIONS. GVN CASUALTIES INCLUDED 12 KILLED AND 30 WOUNDED. GVN CLIAMS 18 VC KILLED AND 11 VC WEAPONS SEIZED. THE MOST SIGNIFICANT INCIDENT OCCURRED IN GIAO DUC DISTRICT (WS 960485), WHERE THE 512 RF BATTALION ENCOUNTERED A VC COMPANY, RESULTING IN 7 RF KILLED AND 12 WOUNDED, AS OPPOSED TO 11 VC KILLED AND 6 VC WEAPONS CAPTURED. SURPRISING NUMBER OF THE ATTACKS BY FIRE HAVE OCCURRED DURING DALIGHT HOUS IN NORTHERN CAI LAY DISTRICT, SUGGESTING THAT THE VC STRATEGY MAY BE TO FRIGHTEN GVN OUTPOST DEFENDERS INTO REMAINING IN THEIR OUTPOSTS AT NIGHT TO PERMIT INCREASED VC INFILTRATION. LEHMANN
MARTIN

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